



IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 25, 27 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 22, 24-26, 28-30 and 32-35, and add new claims 36-42 as follows:

1- 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A control system for integrating legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising:

at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem that includes at least one legacy I/O device which generates discrete output signals of a predetermined format that is different from a predetermined format of discrete output signals from another legacy I/O device;

at least one legacy controller operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals ~~therefrom~~ from the at least one legacy subsystem and to output control signals to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem;

an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals of different formats into said predetermined format and control signals being communicated therebetween the at least one legacy subsystem and the corresponding legacy controller; and

a ~~master~~ modern controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals of different formats and the control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A control system according to claim 22, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the ~~master~~ modern controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem.

25. (Currently Amended) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising:
- a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems each generating discrete output signals;
  - a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to a corresponding one of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and
  - a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.
26. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a system that integrates legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising the steps of:
- generating discrete output signals from at least one legacy I/O device of at least one legacy device subsystem, said discrete output signals of a predetermined format being different from a predetermined format of discrete output signals from another legacy I/O device;
  - generating control signals ~~[[from]]~~ by at least one legacy controller in response to the discrete output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and then outputting said control signals to the at least one legacy subsystem;
  - conditioning at least one of the output signals of different formats into said predetermined format and having said control signals ~~[[being]]~~ communicated between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and at least one legacy controller thereby allow communication therebetween; and
  - controlling via a ~~master~~ modern controller an operation of the at least one legacy controller and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals of different formats and the control signals being communicated therethrough.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the step of conditioning at least one of the output signals and control signals includes, in response

to controlling by the ~~master~~ modern controller, at least one of monitoring or interrupting the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem to the at least one legacy controller and passing-through or overriding the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

generating discrete output signals from a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems;

generating control signals from a plurality of legacy controllers in response to the output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and

conditioning the output signals and control signals being communicated between the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers; and

controlling via the ~~master~~ modern controller operation of the plurality of legacy controllers and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals.

30. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system that integrates legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising:

at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem that includes at least one legacy I/O device which generates discrete output signals of a predetermined format that is different from a predetermined format of discrete output signals from another legacy I/O device;

at least one legacy controller operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete sensor output signals ~~therefrom~~ from the at least one legacy subsystem and to output control signals to the at least one legacy subsystem in response thereto;

an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals of different formats into said predetermined format and control signals being communicated therebetween the at least one legacy subsystem and the corresponding legacy controller; and

a ~~master~~ modern controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals of different formats and the control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the ~~master~~ modern controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystems to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystems.

33. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising:

a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems each generating discrete output signals;

a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to at least one corresponding one of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and

a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.

34. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 33, further comprising:

[[A]] a plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems including, ~~wherein~~ the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems that generate the discrete output signals and include a plurality of sensor devices, [[and]] wherein

the plurality of legacy controllers are each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of sensor

devices and to output control signals to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems.

35. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 34, wherein the plurality of integrated signal conditioning circuits are each formed to, in response to the ~~master~~ modern controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the plurality of sensor devices to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy controllers and pass-through or override the control signals from the plurality of legacy controller to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems.
36. (New) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising a network that connects the legacy subsystems with the modern controller.
37. (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of connecting the legacy subsystems with the modern controller via a network.
38. (New) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising a network that connects the legacy subsystems with the modern controller.
39. (New) A control system for integrating legacy subsystems, comprising:
  - a plurality of legacy subsystems each of which has legacy devices that each generate discrete output signals of a predetermined format different from a predetermined format of discrete output signals generated by other legacy devices thereof, each legacy subsystem includes a corresponding legacy controller operatively coupled to receive the discrete output signals therefrom and to output control signals to the corresponding legacy subsystem;
  - a plurality of integrated signal conditioning circuits each operatively connected between each legacy subsystem and a corresponding legacy controller so as to condition the output signals of different formats and control signals being communicated between each legacy subsystem and the corresponding legacy controller; and

a modern controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuits so as to control the conditioning of the output signals of different formats and the control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the legacy controllers corresponding to the plurality of legacy subsystems.

40. (New) A control system according to claim 39, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the modern controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy subsystem to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy subsystem.
41. (New) A control system according to claim 39, further comprising:
  - a plurality of legacy subsystems each generating discrete output signals;
  - a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively coupled to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to a corresponding one of the plurality of legacy subsystems; and
  - a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy subsystems and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.
42. (New) A control system for integrating legacy subsystems according to claim 39, further comprising a network which connects among the legacy subsystems and the modern controller.